



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: June 20, 2012
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS OPENS INTERSTATE 880 CARPOOL LANES

SANTA CLARA COUNTY – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority announces the opening of 4.6 miles of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane, or carpool lane in each direction of Interstate 880 between State Route 237 in Milpitas and U.S. 101 in San Jose at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 22nd. The HOV lane restrictions will not apply until Monday, June 24, at 5:00 a.m.

The \$64 million project includes \$46 million from Proposition 1B, a transportation bond passed by voters in November 2006 and \$18 million from VTA Local Program Reserve Fund. Proposition 1B is a \$15.5 billion transportation bond designed to invest in California bridges, roads, ports and transit. Since its passage in 2006 Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission have allocated nearly \$6 billion in Proposition 1B funds to improve California's transportation system.

"We are excited to be a part of this cooperative effort with VTA to improve travel in Santa Clara County," said Bijan Sartipi Caltrans District 4 Director. "The Interstate 880 corridor is a significant commute route for motorists traveling to and from Silicon Valley, the Tri Valley Area, Central Valley and San Jose. This project will increase highway capacity, reduce congestion and improve safety throughout this vital transportation network."

"Those carpooling along the notoriously congested I-880 corridor will now have a much longer stretch of highway to bypass congestion and shorten travel time – a commute advantage that hopes to incentivize others to ride share, especially as gas prices remain high and rebounding employment adds more cars to our roadways," said VTA Board Chair Joe Pirzynski. "This collaborative effort between Caltrans and VTA adds yet another successfully delivered project to the long list of highway improvements that have helped reduce traffic congestion, enhanced safety, and provided a commute alternative into, out of and through Santa Clara County."

The project widened Interstate 880 from six to eight lanes and also widened and realigned the on and off ramps to Interstate 880 at the Brokaw Road Interchange.

HOV lanes are operational on Monday through Friday during peak hours from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All other vehicles may use the lanes during off-peak hours.

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